

REMARKS

Claims 1-74 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16-29, 31, 32, 34-37, 40-53, 55, 56, 58-61, 64, 65, and 70-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by IT 463,651 ("Italian").

The Italian patent discloses an apparatus for producing shaped metal pieces, which clamps the peripheral portions of the workpiece metal sheet between clamping press sections 6 and 9 (9a), thereby restricting the shape of the peripheral portions of the shaped metal pieces. In contrast to the Italian patent, the invention herein as claimed in independent claims 1, 25, 49, and 73 does not clamp the periphery of the blank workpiece, enabling the entire blank, including the peripheral portions, to be deformed into an article of any desired shape.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 14, 15, 38, 39, 57, 62, 63, and 66-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Italian patent. These claims are dependent claims, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claims, and are patentable in view of the patentability of the independent claims as set forth above.

Dependent Claims

In view of the patentability of the underlying independent claims over the Italian patent and Pavlecka as set forth above, it is submitted that the claims depending therefrom are likewise patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 9, 30, 33 and 54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been rewritten herein as claims 75-79 to enable the allowance thereof.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted in view of the above that there is no teaching or suggestion of applicant's invention as claimed in the claims submitted herewith, within the scope of the disclosure of the cited reference, without extensive modification and the exercise of inventive talent.



In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that it be passed to issue. If there are any issues which can be discussed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at (310) 242-2732.

Respectfully submitted,

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